Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

JUNE 30, 1999

MEDICAL RECORDS PROVISIONS OF H.R. 10 WOULD BE "HARMFUL TO HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS"

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

Dear Colleague:

The author of the medical privacy provision of H.R. 10 wrongly claims that it will provide consumers with strong protections for their medical records. But in reality, the bill is a giant step backward for patient protection.

That's why the medical privacy provision of H.R. 10 is opposed by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). The AFL-CIO's recent letter states:

The AFL-CIO urges you to vote to strike Title III, Subtitle D (The Confidentiality of Health and Medical Information) in H.R. 10... This provision would facilitate the broad sharing of sensitive medical information in a manner that is harmful to health care consumers since it does not allow consumers to give permission or to be notified if their private health information is being given to other parties....

I urge you to listen to the AFL-CIO and the over 16 million union members in the United States. Oppose the medical privacy provisions in H.R. 10.

Sinderely.

John D. Dingell